

Application Serial No.: 10/694,762
Reply to Office Action dated April 13, 2004

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph [0004], with the following rewritten paragraph:

Meanwhile, a new plastic material called "ASUWAN" has been developed recently as set forth in the article titled "First in the World, Development of New Material by Professor Inoue et al. of Yamagata University" in the web version of "YAMAGATA SHINBUN" newspaper's morning edition issued on Apr. 1, 2002. ~~The homepage can be located at <http://polyweb.yz.yamagata-u.ac.jp/topics/yamashinkiji3.html>.~~ Note that the present inventors searched the homepage on Sep. 10, 2002. The new plastic material is produced by mixing flakes, which are made by pulverizing used PET (i.e., polyethylene terephthalate) bottles, with plastic and rubber, and reacting the resulting mixture chemically. The new plastic material has the characteristic of plastics, for example, it can be formed (or melt formed) by heating. In addition, the new plastic material exhibits remarkable shock resistance. It is reported that the new plastic material can be put into practical use in automobile outer panels.